## **NEWS**

## From the County of San Bernardino www.sbcounty.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE August 2, 2005



For more information, contact David Wert, Public Information Officer (909) 387-4082

<u>dwert@sbcounty.gov</u>

## Statement on July 29 appellate opinion on the Colonies case

The County of San Bernardino is pleased with the opinion issued by the Court of Appeal on Friday. The county commends the court's wisdom in agreeing with the Flood Control District's common-sense position that the district never abandoned the easements in question.

The Board of Supervisors on behalf of the district now looks forward to resolving the remaining points in the case, and the district is now more comfortable than ever that the taxpayers will be well-served.

"The opinion defines more clearly some of the disputed facts surrounding this case while sending the question of the 1939 easement back to the lower court. It is my hope that this opinion from the Appellate Court moves us closer to a resolution," said Supervisor Paul Biane, whose Second District includes the Colonies project in Upland.

"I'm pleased with the decision because the district has been vindicated in numerous respects, but there's work ahead of us," said Supervisor Dennis Hansberger. "We have asked our legal counsel to review this opinion and advise us further."

"The district's position has been upheld," said Supervisor Josie Gonzales.

Because of the complexity of the case combined with the sudden news media attention being paid to the case, the county and district will avoid discussing the matter outside of the courtroom whenever possible.

The county and district want to take this opportunity to assure the public that although internal deliberations and other aspects of the case must remain confidential in order to protect the taxpayers, the county and district have consistently relied on the guidance of their expert legal counsel and will continue to do so until the matter is brought to its conclusion.